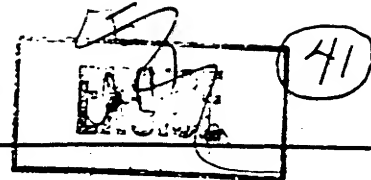


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Department of State



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FROM: Belgrade

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 587, October 23, 6 p.m.

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Yugos have taken detached unemotional view, up to now, of President's Cuba Speech. Press carried full summaries speech, and brief announcement charge's October 22 call on Tito without mentioning subject discussed. No editorial comment yet, no popular emotional reaction visible.

During Embassy officer's discussion today with Kostic American Desk Yugo Foreign Office (latter appeared to have studied speech closely. Said Yugo Government did not have official position yet, but his own unofficial comments were: [Regretted that circumstances had created situation in which World Peace threatened; US concern over military threat so close to home was understandable, but wondered why we do not understand Russian apprehensions over presence unfriendly bases close to Soviet Union; affair would be useful if it results in abolition all major overseas military bases. Kostic then asked several detailed but rather obvious question re implementation quarantine (which he called "blockade"). (1) Will all vessels carrying suspect cargo be searched or only Soviet-flag; (2) how will US determine which vessels to stop and search; (3) what will US do in event vessel refuses obey order to stop; (4) has US considered all retaliatory measures available to Soviet Union? Apparently he was probing to see how tight a quarantine we proposed to apply.]

We understand Yugo newspaper editors received official Yugo briefing late October 23 at weekly meeting with Foreign

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Office officials and were instructed take "objective" line for present.

Real test will probably come if and when (A) overt act takes place on High Seas that could be interpreted as violation International Law; (B) Yugo ship stopped and searched; (C) reaction in unaligned countries becomes clear. Re latter, Yugos have always been reluctant to allow any unaligned nation get in front of them in protesting against "violation" rights and interests small or underdeveloped countries. On other hand, Yugos have little real sympathy or respect for Castro regime, and understand seriousness with which we view matter. On balance, although it is most unlikely Yugos will support our decision.

KOCHER

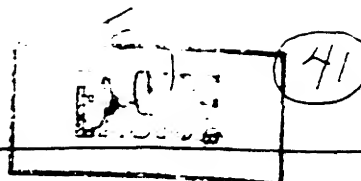
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